cribed procedure and the Boards recom-raendations are to be processed by the AdministrativeMinistries/Departments concerned with the Public Enterprises and final appointments are made only with the approval of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. Further appointments can be made only after getting vigilance clearance, verification of character and antecedents of individuals prior to their appointments and completing other formalities. In certain cases, persons with specialised skills are to be spotted through press advertisements, which takes time. Delays also occur where persons selected take time or fail to join.

(c) Officiating ararngements have al ready been made in regard to existing vacancies so that the work of these enter prises does not Buffer and the selection process for filling these vacancies is also in full swing.

Schemes for Water Augmentation

1308. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the highest priority is being given to schemes for water augmentation all over India irrespective of those areas being drought affected or non-drought affected, similar to the clearance of foreign funded projects as reported in Economic Times on 27th October, 1987; and

(b) if so, details thereof, State-wise or year-wise and the names of projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b) In*terse* priorities for clearance of irrigation projects are indicated by the State Government concerned and unapproved ongoing projects usually receive higher priority.

Maiden Flights of Light Combat Aircraft

1309. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleas ed to state :

(a) what is the time schedule when the first prototype of advanced multi-role tactical fighter, the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) would make its maiden flight;

(b) what are the main features of this aircraft; and

(c) what is the cost of this aircraft ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) The flight of first prototype is estimated to be in 1991.

(b) The LCA would be an advanced technology aircraft incorporating technologies like 'Fly-by-Wire Flight Control System', 'Composite Structural Materials', 'Electronic Cockpit Displays', Advanced Aero Gas Turbine Engine', 'Multimode Radar' etc.

(c) A realistic estimate of cost of the aircraft would be available after the Project Definition Phase, which is in. progress.

Expenditure Incurred on the Prime Minister's visit

1310.. SHRI F. M. KHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be-pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries visited by the Prime Minister during the last two months;

(b) what was the purpose of the visit in each case and the names of the leaders with whom the Prime Minister held discussions and what is the outcome of the discussions; and

(c) the number of persons who had accompanied the Prime Minister and the expenditure involved on the visits ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Japan, Canada, USA, Netherlands and Nepal.

(b) Japan :— Transit. Prime Minister had a meeting with the then Jananese Prime Minister Mr. Yasuhiro Nakasone. Both bilateral and international matters of mutual interest were discussed. Mr. Naka-hone. announced a special credit of US S 200 million for drought relief to India. He appreciated the policies which have made progress in Industrial & other fields possible in India. Mr. Nakasone praised the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement as an act of statemanship.

Canada : Prime Minister went to Canada to attend Commonwealth Heads of Government Meet and for bilateral talks